

THE  
COUNTRY APOTHECARY.



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FROM the gay world we oft retire,  
To our own family and fire,  
Where love our hours employ ;  
No noisy neighbour enters here,  
No intermeddling stranger near  
To spoil our heartfelt joys.

If solid happiness we prize,  
Within our breast this jewel lies ;  
And they do wrong who roam :  
The world has nothing to bestow ;  
From our own selves our joys must flow,  
And that dear hut our home.

THE  
HISTORY  
OF A  
COUNTRY  
APOTHECARY.



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It is too frequently the practice of moralists, to depict human life in gloomy lights and unfavourable attitudes; to depress the aspirings of hope, which it should be their study to raise and exhilarate; and to add to the pressure of real calamities by an enumeration of adsciti-

tious ills, which only exist in the apprehensions of the short-sighted misanthropist, the abject slave, or the disappointed sybarite. It must therefore administer the highest satisfaction to every feeling soul, to see the unfortunate blessed with content, and the humble happy ; neither railing against the iniquity of the times, nor arraigning the partiality of Providence.

This train of speculation originated from an accidental interview with an old school-fellow, while I was in pursuit of very different objects from moral researches or logical deductions. Being called into the West of England by business which admitted no delay, I set out on horseback, without the at-





tendance of a servant, which I never deemed conducive to pleasure, or necessary to accommodation ; but which, in some circumstances, may be agreeable, and, as events fell out, would have been useful in respect to myself. When about ten miles from the place of my destination, my horse took fright : I was violently thrown on the ground, and left for some time without sense or motion. Bruised to a considerable degree, and scarcely able to reflect or to move ; at a distance from any person I knew, and totally destitute of assistance ; I continued on the spot for several hours, in hopes that some person might cross the waste on which I lay, and support me to the nearest house. After waiting for a long time, providently, a shepherd approached the spot ; and, informing me that the town of Barnsley was but a short mile off, humanely replaced me on my horse, and conducted me to the best inn which the place afforded. The landlord being called, I inquired what medical assistance his town could supply. “ We have a vastly clever apothecary, Sir ; and, with your permission, I’ll send for Mr. Drench directly ; I have no doubt that his great care and skill

will give you the utmost satisfaction." A messenger was despatched for the apothecary ; but he soon returned with a visage expressive of disappointment : the gentleman was gone to dine with a party of friends, and would not be at home before night.—“ Good Heavens ! can a man whose employment requires constant and uniform vigilance, the utmost sobriety, and the coolest judgment, indulge himself in voluptuousness for five or six hours successively ! Have you no friend to the sick poor, no man who acts in a subordinate station to the gentleman you recommend, who could free me from a few ounces of blood, and spread a plaister for my bruises !”—“ O, yes ! we have such a person as you mention ; a man reckoned a very great scholar too, by





some people—but in all my life I never saw such a fool ! Why, he cannot even drink a glass of wine ; nor did I ever see him in company of any of our great folks. His business lies only among the lowest class ; but, if you please, Sir, we will call him—I am sure he is in the way.”—“ Send for him directly—my condition, I am afraid, requires despatch ; and perhaps his abilities may be sufficient to give me ease.” In a few minutes, a thin pale figure entered, whose dress and looks neither bespoke the proud nor the successful practitioner. Untainted with the stale address, the long affected face, and the false compliment, of his brotherhood, and without any of their officious bustle, he approached me with a look ineffably grateful to a stranger ; kindly inquired my complaints ; expressed the utmost concern for the misfortunes of travellers ; and modestly declared his hope, that he should be able to relieve me, and restore me in a short time to my family and friends. He performed the operation of phlebotomy with abundant ease and activity ; examined the state of my bruises, which he pronounced trivial ; and administering some medicines, left me with an

assurance of calling again in an hour to see how I did. "But," added he, "I was stopped in my way here to visit a dying man, whose physical guide has forsaken him for a dinner with the squire; and I hold myself bound to exert my poor abilities to relieve the pains of all who apply to me, whether poor or rich, whether friends or foes." This declaration gave me a more exalted opinion of my physical guide, than if he had boasted his reception among the great, expatiated on the number of his cures, and displayed the diamond on his finger. At the stated time he returned: and, as I found myself considerably easier, and besides, was desirous of some rational company, I requested the favour of his conversation for the evening, or, at least, such a portion of it as might be conveniently spared from professional avocations. A look of complacency granted my request, before his lips could perform their office. He attentively surveyed me, as if trying to recognise the face of an old acquaintance under the mask of years; and at last, with an half-stifled sigh, exclaimed—"I find you know me not—but I am much altered; and how can you be supposed



to recollect your once loved Montford, under this disguise, and in this situation?"—"Good God! can the once-honoured Montford be metamorphosed to the little apothecary of a country town? and am I fortunate enough to meet with a friend, where I only expected an interested assistant?"—"Patience! and I will indulge you with a recital of my fortunes. You are no stranger to the deceitful prospects of my birth; you know the manner of my education; but from the time that our union was dissolved at school, my history, I am well aware, is a secret to my Stanley.

"When I was sixteen years of age, I lost

my father: my mother had been called from this world to a better, before my infantine simplicity could be sensible of her departure. My estates were consigned to guardians, and their own necessities prompted them to make free with my possessions. They were naturally well inclined; and, had they been fortunate, perhaps would have acted with integrity: but they were exposed to temptations which they had not sufficient fortitude to resist; and consequently betrayed that trust, the preservation of which should have been held more sacred than the fulfilling of their personal and private obligations. They had received a commission which could not be recalled; my father reposed in the fullest confidence that he had secured the happiness of an only and a beloved son, by placing him under such guardians with the most unlimited power. What criminality, then, was attached to their want of faith, and their breach of a dying man's trust! I soon found that the prospects which my birth gave me liberty to indulge without offence, were vanished forever; that, instead of being the munificent patron of indigent merit, and the friend of the



unfortunate, I was to learn the sufferance of upstart pride, submission to those who were once my inferiors, and all that train of humble virtues, which, though they are not calculated for the elevated, are indispensably requisite for the lowly. Having never wantoned in the idea of affluence from a view of personal gratification, and feeling little reluctance in being debarred from fashionable pursuits, and removed from the contamination of fashionable vices, I set about acquiring those notions which reason and prudence taught me were adapted to the sphere in which I was destined to move; and with sincerity can affirm, that the loss of fortune afflicted me less than many



incidents which have since overtaken me in the walk of life.

“ My guardians, (if the world will style those so who violated every sacred tie, and brought poverty on the person whom they were bound to protect) with the small remains of my fortune, saved from their general wreck, put me apprentice to an apothecary in London ; and with him I lived for seven years, as happily as I could possibly desire. I will not attempt to delineate the character of this worthy man, whom I revered as a father, and loved as a friend : he is now beyond the reach of my censure or applause ; his good deeds have attended him to a happier country ; and his foibles were so few, that it was impossible they should impede his passage thither. Unbounded charity and munificence, a feeling soul in tune with distress, and a promptitude to relieve, were only a few of his distinguishing perfections. From him I imbibed principles which I should never have acquired with such a relish in the enjoyment of hereditary fortune ; and I bless God, that though my opportunity of doing good is but circumscribed, my inclination for it is not cold ; and I reflect,



with conscious pleasure, that remuneration will not be apportioned to actions only, but to intentions also. Unable to force my way to attention, and better qualified to feel gratitude than to express obligation, after my master's death, which happened before I had been two



years released from my apprenticeship, I found the greatest difficulty in obtaining employment in the humble capacity of journeyman. One master Apothecary disliked my address; another advised me to shave my head, and equip myself in a physical peruke; and a third recommended the study of Chesterfield, whose aphorisms, he said, were of

more consequence to the faculty than those of Hippocrates. Sometimes I had the misfortune to disoblige a patient by contradicting a favourite humour, the indulgence of which I knew would be injurious, if not fatal ; and frequently my master was dissatisfied, because, as he termed it, I did not throw in medicines enough when there was a sufficient opening. You will allow, my dear Stanley ! —forgive the freedom of the appellation— you will allow there is a principle called conscience ; and that, when a man acts contrary to its decisions, he looks in vain for felicity. Directed by these potent principles, I endeavoured to do justice to all mankind ; to square my actions by the unerring criterion of self-collocation in similar circumstances. I neither tampered with the constitution of patients to drain their purse ; nor would allow them to rush to an untimely grave, when convinced that restrictions were necessary to be laid, and their practice enforced. These qualities, though they did not procure me credit with the great, have tended to alleviate the ills to which I have been exposed ; and, in an employment like mine, where the smallest deviations from

rectitude of intention or action may possibly prove fatal to a fellow-creature, it is surely some consolation to be able to ponder without self-accusation. Finding it impossible to establish myself on the busy scene of life, I retired from the capital ; and, about seventeen years ago, took up my residence here. I soon became acquainted with a young woman, who like myself had been born to better fortune, but like me had been disappointed. A similarity of situations, as well as a congeniality of dispositions, engaged us to each other by the strongest ties of mutual affection. She soon became my wife ; and, if I have ever felt any unhappiness in her presence since she vowed to be mine, it was only because she sometimes repined at my hard fortune, and reluctantly resigned herself to the dispensations of Providence. My children are numerous and healthy : they are neither pampered with delicacies, nor spoiled by indulgence. Our situation will not admit of the one, and I hope we are too wise to comply with the other.

“ From my appearance, I presume, it will be needless to add, that much success has never been my lot. The weaknesses I have

already enumerated, and which are too dear to be resigned, have kept me from being considered as the first man in my profession, even in this poor place ; but if I have never been a favourite among the rich or patronized by the great, I have had many friends among the poor ; and to them I have reciprocally endeavoured to prove myself a friend.

“ I hope it will not be deemed ostentatious to insinuate, that I am conscious of sometimes having administered ease to the afflicted, of having soothed the rage of disease, and given a momentary respite to the flitting soul. Though my employers, in general, are little able to grant pecuniary compensations, I feel myself happy in their confidence ; and I would not forego the pleasure of assisting the poorest person in distress, for the honour of waiting on grandeur in its happiest hours.”

My friend here paused—I embraced him with tears of joy. “ Montford, you are too good for this world—your value is hid, like that of a diamond in the mine—your principles do honour to human nature ! But might you not be more extensively useful to



the community, were you inspired with a little more self-consequence ; which, however strange it may appear, is always repaid with the confidence of mankind ?” “ I have acted conformably to my disposition ; I have made my election and am satisfied. I feel more internal peace than I could have gained by the adoption of your maxims ; and what has a wise man to look for here of more genuine value ?”—“ But you have ties, Montford, which would justify more vigorous exertions—a family looks up to you for support, and can you overlook their advantage ?” A tear was ready to fall ; but he checked it with manly fortitude. “ You weaken my resolution,



Stanley ; you awaken my tenderest sensations ; but I cannot be more happy than in the consciousness of rectitude, nor did any one ever attempt to alter the course of nature with effect.”—“ Montford, I have been what the world would call more fortunate ; I have an ample income, without any incumbrance. I have neither wife nor children—will you permit me to adopt some of your little ones ? I shall love them for your sake ; nor can I more advantageously dispose of some superfluous thousands, than in cherishing a virtuous family, as I am sure my Montford’s must be.”

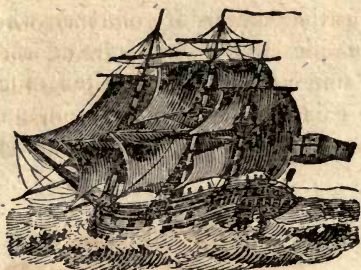
“ He would have made acknowledgments ; but the words were lost in utterance—he wept like a child—I could only hear, “ This is too much ! But you will meet with a rewarder.”

In a few days I was perfectly restored by the skill and attention of Montford. I pressed him to accompany me, and participate of my fortune ; but he delicately declined the acceptance of my offers. “ There are some here who might miss me, poor as I am. I receive with gratitude your proffered kindness to my children—but, for myself, I am



happy ; and what has my Stanley more to confer ?”

Such is the true history of a man who possesses qualities that would have adorned the highest station ; but who has too much honesty to gain esteem from the vain, and too much humility to obtain homage from the great.



## INKLE AND YARICO.

MR. Thomas Inkle, of London, aged twenty years, embarked in the Downs in the good ship called the *Achilles*, bound for the West Indies, in order to improve his fortune by trade and merchandise. Our adventurer was the third son of an eminent citizen, who had taken particular care to instil into his mind an early love of gain, by making him a perfect master of numbers, and consequently giving him a quick view of loss and advantage, and preventing the natural impulses of his passions,

by prepossession towards his interest. With a mind thus turned, young Inkle had a person every way agreeable, a ruddy vigour in his countenance, strength in his limbs, with ringlets of fair hair loosely flowing on his shoulders. It happened, in the course of the voyage, that the Achilles, in some distress,



put into a creek on the main of America, in search of provisions. The youth who is the hero of my story, among others, went ashore on this occasion. From their first landing they were observed by a party of Indians, who hid themselves in the woods for that purpose. The English unadvisedly marched a great dis-

tance from the shore into the country, and were intercepted by the natives, who slew the greatest number of them. Our adventurer escaped, among others, by flying into a forest. Upon his coming into a remote and pathless part of the wood, he threw himself, tired and breathless, on a little hillock, when an Indian



maid rushed from a thicket behind him. ( After the first surprise, they appeared mutually agreeable to each other. ) If the European was highly charmed with the limbs, features, and wild graces, of the American, the American was no less taken with the dress, complexion, and shape, of an European co-

vered with fine clothes. (The Indian grew immediately enamoured of him, and consequently solicitous for his preservation) she therefore conveyed him to a cave, where she gave him a delicious repast of fruits, and led him to a stream to slake his thirst. (In the midst of these good offices, she would sometimes play with his hair, and delight in the opposition of its colour to that of her fingers; then open his bosom, then laugh at him for covering it) She was, it seems, a person of distinction, for she every day came to him in a different dress, of the most beautiful shells, bugles, and beads. She likewise brought him a great many spoils, (which her other lovers had presented to her;) so that his cave was richly adorned with all the spotted skins of beasts, and most party-coloured feathers of birds, which that world afforded. To make his confinement more tolerable, she would carry him in the dusk of the evening, or by the favour of the moon-light, to unfrequented groves and solitudes, and show him where to lie down in safety, and sleep amidst the falls of waters and melody of nightingales. (Her part was to watch and hold him in her arms,



for fear of her countrymen; and awake him on occasions, to consult his safety. In this manner did the lovers pass away their time, till they had learned a language of their own, in which the voyager communicated to his mistress, how happy he should be to have her in his own country, where she should be clothed in such silks as his waistcoat was made of, and be carried in houses drawn by horses, without being exposed to wind and weather. All this he promised her the enjoyment of, without such fears and alarms as they were tormented with. In this tender correspondence these lovers lived for several months, when Yarico, instructed by her lover, discovered a vessel on the coast, to which she made signals; and in the night, with the utmost joy and satisfaction, accompanied him to a ship's crew of his countrymen, bound for Barbadoes. When a vessel from the main arrives in that island, it seems the planters come down to the shore, where there is an immediate market of the Indians and other slaves, as with us of horses and oxen.

To be short: Mr. Thomas Inkle, now coming into English territories, began se-



riously to reflect upon his loss of time, and to weigh with himself how many days' interest of his money he had lost during his stay with Yarico. This thought made the young man very pensive, and he began to think what account he should be able to give his friends of his voyage. Upon this penurious consideration, the ungrateful wretch sold the preserver of his life to a Barbadian merchant.



*Indefatigable labour of the Bees.*

A BEE-HIVE is one of the finest sights a lover of nature can ever have. We cannot tire in contemplating that laboratory, where millions of artificers are employed in different works. We are in a continual state of surprise on seeing their order and regularity; and particularly in those magazines, so plentifully furnished with all that is necessary for the subsistence of the society in winter. What most deserves attention is, the indefatigable application and uninterrupted labours of this colony. The bees give us an example of industry and acti-

vity, which is not only uncommon, but perhaps has not its equal. They appear as soon as winter is over, even when it might still be feared that the cold would hurt them, and benumb their delicate limbs. When the juices of the flowers, which begin to blow, have not yet been sufficiently ripened by the sun, so as to furnish honey in plenty, the bees still gather some little for their food. But their cares and activity redouble very evidently during spring and summer. They are never idle in those seasons. They do all they can; and do not despise small profits, provided they can only increase a little their provisions. In the building their cells they are so indefatigable, that we are assured that a honeycomb of double cells, such as three thousand bees can lodge in, is despatched in twenty-four hours. This whole work is divided among the members of the colony. While some of the bees are gathering the wax, preparing it, and filling the magazines, others are employed in different works. Some take the wax, and make use of it to build cells; others knead it, polish, and purify it; others gather the honey from the flowers, and

lay it in the hive for the daily subsistence, and for future occasions. Others close, with a covering of wax, the cells in which they keep their winter provision of honey. Some carry food to their young, and close with wax the cells of the little ones that are near the time of transformation, to prevent their being disturbed in working their way out. Some closely stop up, with a sort of wax, all the chinks and holes in the hive, and cover all the weak places, that neither the wind nor little insects may find entrance. Some drag out of the hive the dead bodies which might infect them; or, if the dead bodies are too heavy to be carried away, they cover them over with wax, and cement them in such a manner, that in corrupting under that crust, they cannot occasion any bad smell. —But it is not enough to admire the activity of these little creatures: it ought to give us emulation, and serve us as a model. We have many more motives for diligence than those insects; we have an immortal soul of inestimable value. With what application ought we to labour for its happiness, and avoid what might lead to its ruin! What is

more calculated to excite us to activity and indefatigable diligence, than considering that the fruit of our labours does not merely extend to a few days and years, but to eternity itself? Let us, therefore, never be slothful or idle in doing good; but let us acquit ourselves of our duties with all possible zeal and fidelity.





## THE CONTRAST.

PAULO and Avaro are men equally wealthy ; but they differ in the use and application of their riches, which you immediately see upon entering their doors.

The habitation of Paulo has at once the air of a nobleman, and a merchant. You see the servants act with affection to their master, and satisfaction to themselves : the master meets you with an open countenance, full of benevolence and integrity ; your business is despatched with that confidence and

welcome, which always accompanies honest minds; his table is the image of plenty and generosity, supported by justice and frugality. After we had dined here, our affair was to visit Avaro: out comes an awkward fellow with a careful countenance; Sir, would you speak with my master? May I crave your name? After the first preamble, he leads us into a noble solitude, a great house that seemed uninhabited; but from the end of the spacious hall moves toward us Avaro, with a suspicious aspect, as if he believed us thieves; and as for my part, I approached as if I knew him a cutpurse. We fell into discourse of his noble dwelling, and the great estate all the world knew he had to enjoy in it; and I, to plague him, commended Paulo's way of living. Paulo, answered Avaro, is a very good man; but we who have smaller estates, must cut our coat according to our cloth. Nay, says I, every man knows his own circumstances best; you are in the right if you have not wherewithal. He looked very sour; for it is you must know the utmost vanity of a mean spirited rich man to be contradicted,

when he calls himself poor. But I was resolved to vex him, by consenting to all he said; the main design of which was, that he would have us find out, he was one of the wealthiest men in London, and lived like a beggar. We left him, and took a turn upon the Change. My friend was ravished with Avaro: this (said he) is certainly a sure man. I contradicted him with much warmth, and summed up their different characters as well as I could. This Paulo, said I, grows wealthy by being a common good; Avaro, by being a general evil: Paulo has the art, Avaro the craft of trade. When Paulo gains, all men he deals with are the better: whenever Avaro profits, another certainly loses. In a word, Paulo is a citizen, and Avaro a cit. I convinced my friend, and carried the young gentleman the next day to Paulo, where he will learn the way both to gain and enjoy a good fortune. And though I cannot say, I have by keeping him from Avaro, saved him from the gallows, I have prevented his deserving it every day he lives: for with Paulo he will be an honest man, without be-

ing so for fear of the laws ; as with Avaro, he would have been a villain within the protection of them.

FINIS.

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